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UM WRESTLERS PREPARE FOR
BIG SKY CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Jerry Downey, wrestling coach at the University of Montana, is probably more realistic than optimistic when it comes to predicting how his UM wrestling team will fare at the Big Sky Conference wrestling Championships in Boise, Idaho Friday and Saturday.

"We'll have trouble staying out of last place," Downey said in regard to the championship meet. "We're going to be against rough competition".

The UM team has done well in recent outings. Feb. 20 the Grizzlies played host to Vermillion College and won 19 of 21 matches. Vermillion managed to tie Montana in the other two matches. It was the third time this season that the UM team went undefeated during a match. The other two times were against Whitworth College and Gonzaga University.

Downey said he was pleased with his team's performance against Vermillion. "We wrestled freestyle against ^{them} and registered 15 pins," Downey said. "Considering that, we did pretty good."

Downey will take five wrestlers to Boise. They are: 118--Ken Kelly, Fort Benton freshman; 126--Pat Newell, Havre freshman; 150--Gale Newton, Glasgow sophomore; 158--Rick Lau, Rochester, New York, senior; 167--Dave Koeppen, Missoula sophomore.

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